

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 have been canceled, claims 21-28 have been added, and claims 21-28 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 2 and 10 because of the confusing language "comprises a clasp that attaches to a free-standing pole" and he objects to claims 3 and 11 because of the confusing language "comprises a clasp that attaches to a wall". The Applicant has submitted new claims reciting the language suggested by the examiner (e.g., attachable to). Therefore, Applicant submits that these claim objections have been overcome.

Drawings

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the drawings do not show the D-ring element specified in the claims. Applicant has canceled the claims corresponding to the D-ring element and therefore submits that the drawings are acceptable in light of these claim amendments.

Specification

The Examiner objects to the specification pursuant to 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) regarding the expression "block" in claims 8 and 16. Applicant has canceled claims 8

and 16 and has not submitted any new claims using this terminology. Therefore, Applicant submits that the specification is acceptable.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102 and § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 8, 17 and 20 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Plunkett III (US 4,733,861), claims 9, 10, 11 and 16 as being anticipated by Tiller (US 5,007,635), claims 9 and 14 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fox (US 4,186,921) in view of Bailey (US 5,615,879), and claims 12 and 13 as being unpatentable over Tiller in view of Cadley (US 3,102,316).

The Examiner did, however, indicated allowable subject matter in relation to claims 2-7, 15, 18 and 19.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and has submitted new claims 21-28 accordingly. In particular, independent claim 21 includes the clasp limitation shared in allowable claims 2 and 3, independent claim 24 includes the limitations of original claim 1 and dependent claim 6, independent claim 26 includes the limitations of original claim 9 and dependent claim 15 and independent claim 28 includes the limitations of original claim 17 and dependent claim 18. Therefore, Applicant submits that the new claims submitted herewith are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 21-28 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103. Accordingly, the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below should the Examiner have any questions regarding the prosecution of this application.

Extension of Time

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(1), Applicants request a one-month extension of time from October 2, 2004 to November 2, 2004 to respond to the July 2, 2004 Office Action. Accordingly, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct \$55.00 (small entity extension fee) and any additional fees arising as a result of this Amendment or any other communication from Deposit Account No. 50-2241. A Power of Attorney is also filed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Brzycki, Reg. No. 40,926

Dated: 11/2/2004

Gehrke & Associates, S.C.
610 North 77th Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
t 414.774.0874
f 414.774.4837